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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 FRB-01

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-01 OPIC-02 SP-02

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUB-COMMISSION

1. INDIAN EMBASSY COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR ASRANI MET WITH EB DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BILLER OCT. 7 FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUB-COMMISSION. MEETING REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENT TO GET BETTER FIX ON GOI THINKING REGARDING SUB-COMMISSION STRUCTURE AND IDEAS FOR AGENDA. FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

A. ASRANI SAID GOI CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD PROBABLY BE SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE IF TRADE MATTERS DOMINATED AGENDA, OTHERWISE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE. BILLER SAID THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN OF COM-ARABLE LEVEL, PROBABLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
B. SUB-COMMISSION STRUCTURE SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE,
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PRAGMATIC AND INFORMAL. THERE NEED BE NO RIGID SCHEDULE

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OF MEETINGS.

C. SUB-COMMISSION SHOULD BE INITIATING FORCE, IDENTIFYING AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, COLLABORATION OR NEGOTIATING. ONCE AREAS IDENTIFIED, WORK SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ON BOTH SIDES WHICH HAVE NORMAL OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. ASRANI MENTIONED FOLLOWING TOPICS AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ITEMS WHICH GOI MIGHT WANT CONSIDERED BY SUB-COMMISSION.

A. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN GSP IF TRADE BILL ENACTED.

B. COLLABORATION IN MARKET RESEARCH IN EACH COUNTRY FOR PRODUCTS OF OTHER COUNTRY.

C. FEASIBILITY OF SENDING LARGE HIGH LEVEL TRADE MISSION TO INDIA. MISSION COULD BE SPONSORED BY U.S. BUSINESS. PURPOSE OF TRIP IN PART TO CREATE "BUSINESS-MAN'S COOPERATION COMMITTEE". RATIONALE FOR CREATION THIS BODY WOULD BE TO ENABLE BUSINESSMEN ON BOTH SIDE TO MEET AT REGULAR INTERVALS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

D. GOI NEED FOR U.S. TEXTILE MACHINERY.ASRANI SAID FINANCING A PROBLEM SINCE LARGE SCALE PURCHASES WERE CONTEMPLATED.

E. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE BARTER DEALS BETWEEN INDIA AND U.S.

F. U.S. POLICY ON SALES OF MICA FROM GSA STOCKPILES. GOI WISHES TO SEE SALES TAKE PLACE IN MANNER WHICH WOULD NOT AFFECT SALE OF INDIAN MICA.

G. INDIAN DESIRE FOR REGULAR STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE QUOTA.

H. 'SCARCE COMMODITY" PROBLEM. ASRANI COMPLAINED ABOUT INDIA'S EXPERIENCE AT HANDS OF U.S. EXPORTERS WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMODITIES SUCH AS FERTILIZER OR RAYON GRADE WOOD PULP BECOME SCARCE. INDIAN IMPORTERS DENIED ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES WHILE LARGER PURCHASERS IN U.S. AND EEC GET WHAT THEY NEED.

I. NON-TARIFF TRADE PROBLEMS. ASRANI CITED AS EXAMPLE DIFFICULTIES INDIAN EXPORTERS OF SUCCULENT FROG LEGS HAVE IN EXPLOITING U.S. MARKET BECAUSE OF FDA INSPECTION RE-

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QUIREMENTS.

THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. DURING CONVERSATION LAST WEEK WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, ASRANI UNDERSTOOD THAT BUSINESSMAN'S COOPERATION COMMITTEE (A TITLE HE PREFERS TO JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) WOULD HAVE ONLY U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTED BECAUSE OF LEGAL PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, HE WAS TOLD WE PREFER BOTH GOI AND INDIAN PRIVATE SECTOR PRESENT AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS SO THAT U.S. BUSINESSMAN COULD ADDRESS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE APPEARED TO ACCEPT THIS POSITION.

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